United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1049
2 January 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Peace agreement reached on El Salvador at Headquarters on December 31; new Secretary-General asks Mr Alvaro de Soto to continue in his functions as his Personal Representative for the Central American peace process.

- First day in office for new Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

- UN owed over $800 million for regular budget and peacekeeping operations as of 31 December.

- Major de-mining effort for Cambodia urged by outgoing Secretary-General.

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On the night of 31 December, the representatives of the Salvadorian Government, led by President Alfredo Cristiani, and the representatives of el Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) reached an agreement on 31 December at UN Headquarters in New York which should bring into effect an official ceasefire in that country on 1 February.

The ceasefire accord is expected to bring about an end to the 12-year conflict in El Salvador, which has claimed approximately 75,000 lives.

In a press conference held at Headquarters today, Secretary-General's Personal Representative to the peace talks, Alvaro de Soto, indicated that eight substantive agreements had been attached to the main peace agreement between the parties, relating in particular to the armed forces, the national civil police, the economic and social issues, including the land issues, political participation by the FMLN from the ceasefire time onwards and the judiciary system.

The parties are scheduled to meet again on 5 January, according to Mr de Soto, with the view to attempting to reach an agreement on two remaining aspects, namely a calendar for implementation of the agreement, and its specific modalities et mechanisms. If the parties were unable to reach an agreement, they were committed to accepting the formula on the pending matters

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submitted to them by the Secretary-General on 14 January. The formal signature of the "final peace agreements" is scheduled for 16 January in Mexico City.

Mr de Soto also said that the presence of President Cristiani of El Salvador had helped to facilitate the agreement, as had the personal contribution to the talks of outgoing Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, and the presence of the Ambassadors of the so-called Four Friends of the Secretary-General - namely Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Spain - and of the US Ambassador and a number of senior officials from the State Department.

The implementation of the peace agreement will require strong financial support from the international community, especially for the reconstruction efforts, concluded Mr de Soto.

In a related development, a United Nations Spokesman said today that new Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali had been briefed by Mr de Soto on the developments related to the signing of the peace agreement. Following the briefing, the Secretary-General asked Mr de Soto to continue in his functions as his Personal Representative for the Central American peace process, specifically carrying through on the remaining responsibilities regarding El Salvador.

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In his first day in office, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali expressed his eagerness to cooperate for the creating of a new momentum in the work of the United Nations and his hope that "this momentum will help us to play a more important role in the peacekeeping, peacebuilding and in economic-social cooperation, and, above all, defending human rights and the democratic institutions all over the world".

The Secretary-General made these remarks at a brief meeting held with the seni
or officials of the United Nations.

The Secretary-General also met today with the representatives of nine Member States that made early payment of their 1992 assessed contributions.

In a related development, a United Nations Spokesman indicated today that the Secretary-General was scheduled to fly to Cairo over the weekend for a short visit, before returning to New York.

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The United Nations is owed over $800 million in uncollected payments from Member States for both regular and peacekeeping operations as of 31 December 1991. Of that amount, $439.4 million were owed by 85 Member States for the regular budget of the Organization at the end of 1991, while an additional $377.2 million was outstanding for peacekeeping.

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Meanwhile, all Member States have been notified of their assessments for 1992, totalling $1.04 billion. Nine countries - Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden - fully paid today their assessed contributions for the current year.

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In light of the growing sense in the international community for the need to undertake, on an urgent basis, a major de-mining effort in Cambodia, it was suggested that such a programme begin even before the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

In a report of 30 December, the outgoing Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, indicated that he had decided accordingly to recommend to the Security Council that the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) be expanded to include training in mine clearance and the initiation of a de-mining programme, including the training of Cambodian personnel in mine detection and mine clearance. This programme, said Mr Pérez de Cuéllar, would be concentrated in the northwestern part of Cambodia and would give priority, in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to repatriation routes, reception centres and areas where refugees and displaced persons will be resettled.

The report estimates that the military personnel totalling approximately 1,000 and provided by Member States, would be made up of about 40 members of a planning and liaison unit based at UNAMIC headquarters, an engineer unit of about 700, expert training and supervisory teams of about 200 and 150 logistic support personnel.

Mr Pérez de Cuéllar stated however that, in view of the present financial situation of the Organization, it was not possible to undertake the activities proposed in the report until the necessary cash resources became available.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1050
3 January 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

◆ Security Council President, in statement on behalf of Council members, welcomes agreement on El Salvador reached at Headquarters on 31 December, 1991; urges parties to show maximum flexibility during talks on pending issues over the weekend.

◆ Cyrus Vance to return from fifth visit to Yugoslavia tomorrow, 4 January, to report to Secretary-General on talks with Portuguese Government officials, President of EEC and Yugoslav parties; International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) successful in creating protected areas for the sick and wounded.

◆ UNDRO report on Middle East/Persian Gulf emergency situation tells of shortfall in funding of $94 million mostly related to UNICEF and FAO programmes.

◆ Security Council holds 53 meetings and establishes three entirely new peace-keeping operations during 1991.

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The Security Council welcomed today the agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) signed at Headquarters on 31 December, 1991, which, it said, would put a definite end to the Salvadorean armed conflict, when implemented.

In a statement on behalf of Council members, following consultations on its January programme, Council President Sir David Hannay said the agreement was of vital importance for the normalization of the situation in El Salvador and in the region as a whole.

He expressed the Council's gratitude and appreciation for the contribution of former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and his Personal Representative, Alvaro de Soto, as well as others who have assisted in solving the problem.

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For information media - not an official record

The Council President urged the parties to show maximum flexibility in resolving the pending issues in negotiations at United Nations Headquarters starting this weekend. He also urged the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to take no action in the coming days which would be contrary to the agreement reached in New York.

The statement welcomed the Secretary-General's intention, stated during consultations, to submit a written report and proposals for the Council's action early next week, relating to the verification of cease-fire arrangements and the monitoring of the maintenance of public order, pending the establishment of the new National Civil Police. This would require the approval by the Council of new tasks for the United Nations Observation Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). Council members would stand ready to deal expeditiously with any recommendations that the Secretary-General may make, the statement concluded.

* * *

A United Nations spokesman announced today that Mr. Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to Yugoslavia, had met in Lisbon today with the Portuguese Foreign Minister, in his capacity as Chairman of the European Community.

Mr. Vance had met Tuesday with Portuguese Prime Minister and President Mario Soares, as well as with the incoming and outgoing Presidents of the EEC.

Mr. Vance was asked on 27 December, by the former Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to undertake a fifth visit to Yugoslavia to see whether the outstanding obstacles could be removed for the deployment of a United Nations peace-keeping operation in the country.

Mr. Vance was now on his way back to New York to report to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali tomorrow, 4 January, the spokesman said.

In a related development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has reported success in the establishment and supervision of protected zones in Yugoslavia, with the agreement of the parties, to provide protection for the sick and wounded and other non-combatant vulnerable groups.

In a review of activities since the outbreak of the conflict in Yugoslavia in June 1991, the Committee reported that it had provided humanitarian services to some 5,000 prisoners held in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia and Vojvodina, as well as more than 4,000 tonnes of relief supplies to some 600,000 civilians who had been displaced because of the conflict.

The Agency, which has a team of 50 expatriate staff in Yugoslavia, said it had also conducted surveys of medical needs in hospitals in the conflict zones and had set up emergency medical stocks in Belgrade and Zagreb. It had

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also launched a "medium term" assistance programme, which furnishes hospitals with equipment, medicine and supplies.

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The United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and the Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Iran border areas has received only 77 per cent of its total needs of $416.4 million, leaving a shortfall of $94.6 million, according to a financial report by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO). Most of the shortfall, the report said, related to contributions requested for programmes to be implemented by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In its report issued today, UNDRO said that, following the extension of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, a revised plan of action, covering the first six months of 1992, would be issued shortly.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents at Headquarters that there had been some organizational structure changes since the resignation of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as Executive Delegate on 20 December 1991. The office of the Executive Delegate in Geneva would continue to function under Mr. Olsen, Officer-in-Charge, a member of Prince Sadruddin's team in Baghdad.

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During 1991, the forty-sixth year of its existence, the Security Council held a total of 53 meetings -- 16 meetings less than in 1990.

The Council devoted 15 meetings to matters concerning peace-keeping operations and established three entirely new operations: the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). It also established a United Nations Advance Mission to Cambodia (UNAMIC), a forerunner to a larger operation to be known as the United Nations Transition Administration in Cambodia (UNTAC) envisaged to monitor elections expected to take place during spring 1993. Further, as a successor to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM I), the Council established UNAVEM II.

Fourteen of the Council's meetings during the year concerned the situation arising from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait and the aftermath of the Gulf war. Three meetings were devoted to the situation in Yugoslavia and two meetings each to the situations in the occupied territories, Cambodia and Cyprus. Separate meetings were also held on the situations in Liberia, El Salvador, Haiti and Western Sahara, respectively.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1051
6 January 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council unanimously condemns decision of Israel to deport twelve Palestinians from occupied Palestinian territories.

- Secretary-General strongly deplores killing of Dr. Marta Pumpalova, UNICEF consultant in Somalia, in incident yesterday in Bossaso; Under-Secretary General James Jonah, who is in Somalia to hold talks with Somali officials, oversees the evacuation of body to Nairobi, Kenya.

- Secretary-General views with deep concern deportations by Israel of Palestinians from occupied territories; calls on Israeli authorities to reconsider their decision.

- Secretary-General says he intends to send 50 United Nations military liaison officers to Yugoslavia on assumption of lasting cease-fire and that other conditions for deployment of peace-keeping force will be met.

* * *

The Security Council today strongly condemned the recent decision of Israel to deport twelve Palestinian civilians from the occupied Palestinian territories.

At a meeting this evening, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution reaffirming the applicability of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war to all the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

By its decision, the Council further requested Israel, the occupying power, to refrain from deporting any Palestinian civilians from the occupied territories and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has strongly deplored the killing of Dr. Marta Pumpalova, a UNICEF consultant in Somalia, during an incident

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For information media—not an official record

that took place on 5 January in the town of Bossaso, in the northern part of the country. Dr. Pumpalova was serving in Somalia as part of UNICEF's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the Somali people.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents that a report had been send to his office by the UNICEF office in Nairobi describing the "extremely serious" incident and highlighting dangers encountered by United Nations staff engaged in humanitarian operations in strife-torn areas.

According to the report, the incident was "evidently premeditated", as reflected by the calm and unhurried manner in which it was executed in public.

The body of Mrs. Pumpalova was brought to Nairobi by an aircraft of Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah who is currently in Somalia.

In a related development, a team of United Nations senior officials is currently in Mogadiscio for talks in bringing about a cessation of hostilities in that city. The team, which began its mission on 3 january, is led by Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Question, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, James O.C. Jonah.

Mr. Jonah met with Somali officials to consider the question of humanitarian assistance and ways of improving the capacity of the international community to deliver humanitarian assistance now. The Somali side stressed that, while there should be no interference in the international affairs of the United Somali Congress (USC), the United Nations had a constructive role to play in bringing about national reconstruction.

Mr. Jonah interrupted his programme yesterday when hearing about the killing of the UNICEF official and traveled to Bossaso where he declared evacuation of the wounded and dead a top priority.

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The Secretary-General has stated that he views the Israeli deportation of the 12 Palestinians with deep concern and has called on the Israeli authorities to reconsider their decision.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that at a time when efforts were under way to sustain momentum in the Middle East peace process, he hoped that all sides would refrain from acts that could serve only to heighten tension in the area and undermine the confidence that was so essential to any effective negotiating process.

The statement was issued by the Spokesman's office following a meeting between the Secretary-General and the Permanent Observer of Palestine, Nasser Al-Kidwa, on the question of the deportation orders.

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The Secretary-General today reported to the Security Council that he intends to send a group of 50 United Nations military liaison officers to Yugoslavia immediately, as a follow-up to his Personal Envoy's latest mission to that country.

The Secretary-General met over the weekend with his Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, who had just returned from his fifth visit to Yugoslavia.

In his report to the Security Council, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that there had been, in recent days, "a glimmer of hope" that the situation in Yugoslavia might improve. A larger United Nations operation would be deployed once the cease-fire, hopefully quickly, had established itself.

The military liaison officers would be drawn from existing peace-keeping operations and would be attached to the general headquarters of the Yugoslav National Army and the Croatian People's Guard and to their field headquarters. They would use their good offices to promote maintenance of the cease-fire by facilitating communication between the two sides and by helping them to resolve difficulties that might arise.

The Secretary-General further emphasized that, as had repeatedly been stated, a United Nations peace-keeping force could not be established in Yugoslavia without sustained evidence of the willingness and ability of the leaders on both sides to ensure that the cease-fire was respected.

In an annex to his report devoted to the humanitarian situation in Yugoslavia, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the number of persons displaced by the conflict was now estimated to be in excess of 600,000 and continued to increase. He said that Mr. Vance, during his mission, had received assurances from Serbian and Croatian authorities that they would fully respect the right of displaced persons to return to their homes.

Following his meeting with the Secretary-General on Saturday, Mr. Vance said he would be in touch with the Yugoslav parties with a view to encouraging them to continue to respect the cease-fire.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1052
7 January 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- President of Security Council, in statement on behalf of Council members, condemns "tragic incident" in Yugoslavia in which helicopters of European Community Monitoring Mission are shot down by Yugoslav aircraft, killing five Mission members; calls on all parties to Yugoslav conflict to respect their cease-fire commitments.

- Secretary-General deplores death of five European Community Observers in incident in Yugoslavia today.

- Secretary-General proposes that mandate of United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia be expanded to include training in mine clearance and de-mining programme, at additional cost of $24.7 million.

- Discussions on calendar for implementation of New York agreements on El Salvador, signed on 31 December, continue at Headquarters.

- Committee on Palestinian Rights condemns Israel's decision to continue its deportations of Palestinians from occupied territory.

- World Food Programme resumes crucial airlift of food supplies to displaced Sudanese in southern town of Wau.

* * *

The President of the Security Council, Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom, condemned today, in a statement on behalf of Council members, the "tragic incident" that occurred in Yugoslavia earlier today, in which helicopters of the European Community Monitoring Mission in that country were shot down by a Yugoslav aircraft, killing four Italian members and one French member of that Mission.

The Council called on the Yugoslav authorities to take all steps necessary to ensure that the act "would not go unpunished" and that such incidents "would not occur again".

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Calling the incident a "callous attack on unarmed civilian personnel", the members of the Council reiterated their urgent call on all parties to the conflict in Yugoslavia to respect their cease-fire commitments. They noted that the Yugoslav authorities had accepted responsibility for the "flagrant breach of cease-fire", had said that they would take the necessary disciplinary action against those responsible, and had reiterated their commitment to observe the cease-fire fully.

The members of the Council further expressed their deep appreciation for the work done by members of the Mission and called on the Yugoslav parties to ensure that Mission members and United Nations personnel be allowed to fulfil their role with the full cooperation of all sides.

The Council will hold a formal meeting tomorrow afternoon to consider a draft resolution on the Secretary-General's proposal to send 50 military liaison officers to Yugoslavia. The Council will then hold a second formal meeting on the Secretary-General's proposal to expand the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has deplored the death of five European Economic Community (EEC) Observers aboard one of two helicopters shot down over Yugoslavia today.

In a statement this afternoon, the Secretary-General said he was shocked and grieved to hear of the tragic incident, which, he said, "vividly demonstrated the need to redouble the efforts underway to bring peace back to Yugoslavia".

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The Secretary-General has proposed that the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) be expanded to include training in mine clearance and the initiation of a de-mining programme, at an additional cost of $24.7 million.

In an addendum to his report on Cambodia to the Security Council, dated 6 January, the Secretary-General stated that UNAMIC would need an additional 1,090 military personnel to carry out the new responsabilities. The proposed expansion would take into account a phased deployment of the military and civilian personnel beginning mid-January.

The Secretary-General further recommended, should the Security Council decide to expand UNAMIC's mandate, that the additional cost relating thereto be considered an expense to the Organization to be borne by Member States of the United Nations.
(S/23331/add.1)

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Discussions to focus on the calendar for the implementation of the New York agreements on El Salvador, signed on 31 December, were continuing at Headquarters today.

Also under discussion are the modalities and procedures for ending the military structure of the Frente Farabundo Martí Para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

Yesterday, the delegations of the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN met jointly and separately throughout the day, with the participation of Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman announced today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali would travel to Mexico City on 16 January for the signing of the agreements on El Salvador.

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The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has condemned the decision by Israel, the occupying Power, to continue its deportations of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory.

In a letter to the Secretary-General yesterday, the acting Chairman of the Committee, Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, addressed an urgent appeal to the Secretary-General, as well as all the parties concerned, to see that "all the necessary measures were taken" in order to induce Israel to desist forthwith from deporting the twelve Palestinians and to ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of those deported.
(A/46/837, S/23374)

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has recommended the resumption of some 1,000 tonnes of food aid for 150,000 displaced Sudanese people living in the Southern town of Wau, the state capital of Bahr-El-Ghazal.

The decision to airlift food into the area follows a four-month interruption of services by the WFP and other relief organizations after an ICRC chartered aircraft was destroyed last September by a landmine on the Wau runway and the explosion badly injured several crew members.

According to the Agency, food supplies have reached near starvation levels due to ongoing clashes between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the Sudanese Government forces. The Agency reports that security is still uncertain at Wau. However, WFP has arranged for two chartered planes to deliver food twice daily for the next two months.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1053
8 January 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council votes unanimously to authorize immediate deployment of 50 United Nations military liaison officers in Yugoslavia.

- Security Council approves expansion of mandate of United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia to include mine clearance and de-mining functions.

- British proposal to convene summit meeting of Security Council to "strengthen role of United Nations in international affairs" is welcomed by Secretary-General.

- Secretary-General receives letter from Libyan Government, requesting special session of General Assembly on international terrorism.

* * *

The Security Council today authorized the proposal of the Secretary-General to dispatch immediately to Yugoslavia a group of 50 military liaison officers to promote maintenance of the cease-fire, agreed to by the parties in Geneva on 23 November 1991.

By unanimous decision, the Council approved the Secretary-General's report of 5 January and deplored the tragic incident on 7 January which caused the death of five members of the European Community Monitoring Mission. It requested all the parties to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the personnel sent by the United Nations and of the members of the European Community Monitoring Mission.

The Council further repeated its call to all parties to honour the commitments made at Geneva and welcomed the signing, under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Mr. Cyrus Vance, of an Implementing Accord at Sarajevo on 2 January concerning modalities for implementing that cease-fire unconditionally.

The Council also reaffirmed the arms embargo, applied in two earlier Council resolutions, and supported the view expressed in the

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General's report that the embargo continue to apply to all areas that have been part of Yugoslavia, any decisions on the question of the recognition of the independence of certain republics notwithstanding. (S/23382)

* * *

In a second meeting of the Security Council today, all 15 Council members voted in favour of the Secretary-General's proposal to expand the mandate of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) to include training in mine clearance and the initiation of a mine clearance programme among the Cambodian people.

By its unanimous decision, the Council expressed concern that the existence of mines and minefields in Cambodia posed a serious hazard to the safety of people in Cambodia, as well as an obstacle to the smooth and timely implementation of the Agreements on the Comprehensive Political Settlement, including the early return of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons.

The Council further reiterated its call to all the Cambodian parties to comply scrupulously with the cease-fire signed on 23 October in Paris and to lend all necessary assistance to UNAMIC.

The Secretary-General had stated, in an addendum to his report setting out the financial and administrative implications of the expansion of UNAMIC, that the force would need an additional 1,090 military personnel at the additional cost of $24.7 million. He recommended that the amount be considered an expense to the Organization to be borne by Member States. (S/23383)

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A United Nations spokesman confirmed today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had received a message from British Prime Minister John Major proposing the convening on 30 January of a summit meeting of the 15 Member States of the Security Council.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General had welcomed the British proposal to invite Heads of States and government to attend the special session of the Council by the end of the month.

The British Prime Minister said in his message to the Secretary-General that the convening of such a meeting would provide the opportunity to reaffirm the United Nations' central role "in strengthening the international order and the challenges it faces in the aftermath of the cold war and demonstrate, at the highest level, support for the responsibilities of the United Nations and the Security Council as regards peace-making, peace-keeping and preventive diplomacy".

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The Secretary-General received yesterday a letter from the Libyan Government, delivered to him by the Libyan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, requesting a special session of the General Assembly on the topic of international terrorism.

The Secretary-General's Spokesman told correspondents that consultations were underway on the possibility of such a session. He said that since the Assembly was currently in recess, there was a possibility of reopening the 46th session for a discussion on the issue of terrorism, as well as other items.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1054
9 January 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General travels to Europe for talks with French and British leaders on Yugoslavia, Cambodia and on forthcoming summit of Security Council, among other things.

- Secretary-General appoints Yasushi Akashi his Special Representative on Cambodia, effective today.

- Secretary-General says cease-fire in Mogadiscio is of "vital importance" for distribution of urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

- United Nations military liaison officers in Yugoslavia to be deployed in headquarters of Yugoslav National Army headquarters and Croatian People's Guard, according to further report by Secretary-General.

- Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan reports "progress" in talks in Vienna between United Nations representatives and Iraqi authorities on possible resumption of petroleum exports by Iraq.

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A United Nations spokeswoman announced today that Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was on his way to Europe on a working visit to France and the United Kingdom where he would discuss with leaders of those countries a wide range of issues including Yugoslavia, Cambodia and the forthcoming summit of the Security Council.

In Paris, from 9 to 11 January, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with French President François Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas as well as with other French officials.

He would then travel to London for meetings on 12 and 13 January with British Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and other British officials as well as with Lord Carrington, the European Community's mediator on Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General is expected back in New York on Tuesday, 14 January.

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For information media—not an official record

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Under-Secretary-General Yasushi Akashi as his Special Representative on Cambodia, effective today.

Mr. Akashi has served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs since March 1987, prior to which he had been Under-Secretary-General for Public Information from May 1979. Before joining the Organization, he was Ambassador at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.

Mr. Akashi joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1957 and performed various functions in the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, the Office of Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Coordination where he was a principal officer.

The former Under-Secretary-General served his Government as Representative to the General Assembly from 1974 to 1978 as well as to a number of United Nations conferences and subsidiary organs.

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The Secretary-General today called for an immediate cease-fire in Mogadiscio stating that the continuing fighting was "seriously impeding" United Nations efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to all the affected people of Somalia.

According to a statement issued at Headquarters, attributed to a spokeswoman for Mr. Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary-General had received a preliminary report of his envoy to Somalia, Under-Secretary-General James O.C. Jonah. It was "evident" to Mr. Boutros-Ghali that the situation remained "tragic and volatile", and that the political and economic problems facing Somalia continued to deteriorate in the face of widespread insecurity.

The Secretary-General had been informed that there was "overwhelming support" for an immediate cease-fire in Mogadiscio from most of the parties and factions in Somalia, "except for the ambiguous position maintained by one of the chief protagonists to the conflict".

The United Nations would continue to do its utmost to provide humanitarian assistance for the people of Somalia and to press for a lasting cease-fire in Mogadiscio, the statement said.

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The cost associated with the emplacement and maintenance of the 50 United Nations military liaison officers to be sent to Yugoslavia would be approximately $2 million for the first month and about $0.7 million monthly thereafter, according to a further report by Secretary-General.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 7 January, the Secretary-General said the liaison officers would be deployed in each of the existing locations of the Yugoslav Federal Army and the Croatian People's Guard. Their main responsibilities would be to use their good offices to promote maintenance of the cease-fire by facilitating communication between the two groups and by helping them to resolve differences that may arise (document S/23363/Add.1).

* * *

Talks between United Nations representatives and Iraqi authorities on the possible resumption of petroleum exports by Iraq continued today in Vienna.

At a press conference in the Austrian capital today, Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan, United Nations Controller, told correspondents that the current talks were the first "serious" meeting with the Iraqis since the Security Council, concerned at the plight of the Iraqi population, approved a "scheme" for meeting their humanitarian needs.

Discussions had focused on possible investments, cost of production, oil products, outlets to be used for export and marketing, among other things. The atmosphere had been "very good, very constructive and very positive" and talks were still continuing, Mr. Annan said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1055
10 January 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Secretary-General, in Paris, meets with French President François Mitterrand for talks on summit meeting of the Security Council to be held on 31 January in New York.

- Libya officially requests a special session of General Assembly to discuss international terrorism.

- New six-month plan of action for humanitarian assistance to Iraq, estimated at $145.2 million, announced by Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator.

- Colonel John Wilson of Australia to head 50-member United Nations military liaison team in Yugoslavia.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in Paris with President François Mitterrand of France with whom he discussed the forthcoming summit of the Security Council, to be held on 31 January in New York.

The Secretary-General left New York for Europe yesterday, on a working visit to France and the United Kingdom, for discussions with those two countries' leaders on a wide range of issues, including Yugoslavia, Cambodia and the forthcoming summit of the 15-member Security Council.

Earlier today, the Secretary-General met with Mr. Bernard Kouchner, French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Action, for talks on the question of coordination of humanitarian action under United Nations auspices. They discussed in particular humanitarian assistance operations in Yugoslavia, Somalia and in other parts of the world.

The Secretary-General then met with Director-General of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Frederico Mayor for a discussion of the role of that Agency in education programmes around the world, specifically in view of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

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For information media—not an official record

Mr. Boutros-Ghali will meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas tomorrow.

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Libya has requested a special session of the General Assembly to discuss what it called "the danger posed by the phenomenon of international terrorism to international peace and security and a number of other grave issues of concern to all nations".

The Libyan Government's request, dated 8 January, which was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter signed by the Libyan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ali Ahmed Elhoudeiri, reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all forms and pointed out that Libya had taken the initiative in order to "first reach a definition of international terrorism and then to eliminate it and the underlying causes of all those forms or terrorism and acts of violence to which the world is prone...".

At a press briefing at Headquarters yesterday, Ambassador Elhoudeiri referred to charges by Britain, France and the United States that two Libyan nationals were involved in the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and their request for Security Council involvement with the matter. The Libyan Ambassador told correspondents that his country saw no need for Security Council involvement, asserting that the attempt by the three countries to involve the Council had changed the nature of the matter from a legal to a political one.

He said, however, that his country sought a just and truthful resolution to the matter and would continue to welcome any "initiative that could assist in diffusing the escalating tensions" between his country and the three Council members.

According to a United Nations spokeswoman today, the Secretary-General has written to all Member States requesting that they inform him within thirty days whether their Governments concurred with the request for convening the special session, which she said would require a simple majority of the membership.

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The United Nations has released a new six-month plan of action for a continued humanitarian assistance to Iraq, at an estimated cost of $145.2 million, according to a report by the Geneva-based Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO).

Focusing on the most basic needs of populations at risk, the plan will be officially presented to donor governments representatives in Geneva on 13 January. It includes, among other things, assistance to displaced persons in the north and the south of Iraq, vulnerable groups in Iraq and refugees remaining in Iran, and continued presence of United Nations guards for protection of supplied materials and personnel.

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UNDRO reported that heavy snowstorms in the north of Iraq last week had delayed returns of refugees from Turkey and Iran. However, the Agency said, the security situation in northern Iraq remained stable. Discussions among the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Iraqi Government and others regarding medium/long term development aid in Iraq were ongoing. It was hoped that this process would facilitate smooth transition from emergency relief operations to a programme of rehabilitation for the most affected populations.

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Colonel John Wilson of Australia, Deputy Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), has been named Senior Military Liaison Officer of the 50-member military liaison team to Yugoslavia, authorized by the Security Council on Wednesday.

Announcing the appointment today, a United Nations spokeswoman explained the role of the group, saying it was neither an observer mission nor a monitoring mission. Its mandate was to liaise with the Yugoslav Federal Army and the Croatian National Guard on the maintenance of the cease-fire. The deployment of the group would take place early next week, she said.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1056
13 January 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that it enlarge mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador before signature of final agreements in Mexico City on 16 January, to enable it to fulfil additional responsibilities as soon as cease-fire is in effect.

◆ Secretary-General, in London for two-day visit, holds talks with British officials.

◆ Drug trafficking organizations engage in joint venture operations in South America, Western Europe and South-East Asia to smuggle heroin and cocaine, says 1991 annual report of International Narcotics Control Board.

◆ Baltic States seek aid-receiving status from United Nations Development Programme.

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With only three days left before the final signing in Mexico City of the agreements to end the 12-year conflict in El Salvador, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission (ONUSAL) in that country.

In a report to the Council, dated 10 January, the Secretary-General said the signature of the agreements would give rise to additional responsibilities for ONUSAL, which would require an "immediate and substantial increase" in the Force's strength. The agreements, to be signed on 16 January in Mexico City, include verification by ONUSAL of all aspects of the cease-fire and monitoring of public order during the period while the new National Civil Police is being set up.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated in his report that he hoped the Council would be ready to approve of the enlargement of ONUSAL's mandate, in advance of signature, so that the Force would be in a position to fulfil its new responsibilities as soon as the cessation of the armed confrontation begins on

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For information media--not an official record

1 February. He indicated that he would report further to the Council on any future changes in the situation in El Salvador which might have consequences for the ONUSAL.

The Secretary-General also said that he intended, in the coming days and weeks, to explore ways of ensuring a follow-up to the agreements on El Salvador. He noted that the goals of the agreements were not only to bring an end to the armed conflict, but also to promote respect for human rights, democracy and the reunification of the Salvadorian people.

According to a United Nations spokesman today, the negotiations between the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) had continued during the weekend and the parties had agreed to extend the deadline for the final agreement on details until midnight tonight.

In a related development, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon to discuss the Secretary-General's recommendations to enlarge the ONUSAL mandate. The Council is scheduled to convene in a formal meeting tomorrow afternoon to take action on the report.
(S/23402)

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Continuing his first overseas trip since taking up his post, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today in London with a number of British leaders, including Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development of the United Kingdom, for talks on various political questions, and Douglas Hogg, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, for a general discussion of international matters.

He also met with the President of Italy, Francesco Cossiga, who is currently visiting London, for a discussion of a number of questions of concern to the international community, mainly the situation in Yugoslavia.

Later today, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and Prime Minister John Major.

Yesterday, upon his arrival from Paris, first leg of his European visit, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with Lord Carrington, the European Commission negotiator on Yugoslavia, to discuss the situation in that country.

Completing his visit in Paris, the Secretary-General met Saturday in Paris with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of France, Roland Dumas, with whom he discussed a number of issues, such as the Middle East situation, the peace accords in El Salvador, the implementation of the peace accords in Cambodia, the situation in Yugoslavia and the role of the United Nations in promotion and maintenance of peace in that country and the forthcoming summit of the Security Council, to be held on 31 January in New York.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali is expected back in New York tomorrow.

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Heroin abuse is soaring in a number of regions of the world, and cocaine, once abused mainly in the Americas and Europe, now also threatens Africa, the Near and Middle East, South and South-East Asia and Oceania, reports the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

According to its 1991 survey, the expanding drug usage is the result of joint venture operations, established by well-financed and heavily armed interlocking criminal trafficking organizations in South America, Western Europe and South-East Asia, to smuggle heroin and cocaine.

Reiterating its call for even stronger, more comprehensive, more innovative response to the drug menace, the Narcotics Control Board stated that despite some encouraging developments and counteraction measures by countries at the community, national, regional, bilateral and multilateral levels, the drug abuse situation world-wide remained grim.

In its overall assessment of the international drug situation, the report pointed to the continued threat of illicit production, trafficking and abuse, along with drug-related violence and corruption, not only to public health but to political institutions, economic development and the environment. It also made a special reference to the spreading danger of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection as a result of intravenous drug abuse.

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced today that the Governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have requested aid-receiving status from the Agency.

According to a press release issued today, UNDP had sent experts to the three newly-independent States to collect information, with a view to developing UNDP's programmes there and to reviewing relevant data for establishing five-year aid targets for each country. The UNDP team had also explored the role the Agency could play in supporting the countries' transition from centralized to market-oriented economies.

The Baltic States' application for assistance will be reviewed by the UNDP Governing Council when it meets in February.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1057
14 January 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council decides to enlarge mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) to include verification and monitoring of agreements to be signed in Mexico City on 16 January; extends Force's mandate until 31 October 1992 and calls upon both parties to respect agreements "scrupulously".

- Secretary-General, in London yesterday, expresses hope that Security Council summit in New York on 31 January will "mark new stage in dialogue between United Nations membership and the Secretariat".

- Total production and income in the world have fallen this year, for the first time since Second World War, according to update of United Nations 1991 World Economic Survey.

* * *

The Security Council decided this afternoon to enlarge the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) to include verification and monitoring of the implementation of the agreements, once they are signed in Mexico City on 16 January by the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), particularly the cease-fire agreement and the agreement on the establishment of a National Civil Police.

At the same time, the Council decided to extend ONUSAL's mandate until 31 October 1992 and called on both parties "to respect scrupulously and to implement in good faith" the commitments under the agreements to be signed in Mexico City. It also called on both sides to cooperate fully with ONUSAL in its task of verifying the implementation of the agreements.

The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 729 (1992), by which it approved the Secretary-General's report of 10 January and welcomed his intention to convey shortly to the Council his recommendation to end the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA).

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For information media—not an official record

By its decision, the Council further welcomed the agreements between the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN, stating that when implemented, the agreements would open the way for national reconciliation.

The Council also reaff[illegible] its support for the Secretary-General's continuing mission of go[illegible]fices with regard to the Central American peace process and asked him to report on developments relating to the present resolution, as well as on the operations of ONUSAL before the expiry of the new mandate period.

Speaking to correspondents following the meeting, Council President Sir David Hannay of the United Kingdom called the Council's decision "very important and crucial", because it provided the "underpinning" by the United Nations of the agreements to be signed in Mexico City. ONUSAL, he said, would be conducting "a major operation" in the reshaping of the Salvadoran national police force with a team of nearly 650 United Nations civilian police personnel made available to help the new national police force take up its new duties.

Earlier today, the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) announced that they had reached agreement early this morning on the pending issues in the negotiations in New York.

In a communiqué signed by both parties, the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN said that the way was clear for the final signature in Mexico City on Thursday of the El Salvador peace agreements. The communiqué was also signed by the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali returned to New York from London today. Before leaving London last night, he attended a dinner given in his honour by United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

In welcoming Mr. Boutros-Ghali to the United Kingdom on his first visit as Secretary-General, Mr. Hurd said that his new functions required both caution and courage, and he pledged his country's support for the new leader.

Responding, the Secretary-General said that only by ensuring democracy could poverty be attacked; it was in the interest of all to create pluralism, he said. The United Nations and its Secretariat, he added, formed "the linchpin of international cooperation".

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali went on to say that he would spare no effort to streamline the international civil service, but, referring to the financial crisis of the United Nations, he said its "hand-to-mouth existence" was unworthy of an Organization striving to promote peace and understanding.

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He expressed hope that the United Kingdom-proposed Security Council summit, scheduled in New York on 31 January, would mark a new stage in the dialogue between the United Nations membership and the Secretariat.

Earlier yesterday, the Secretary-General had met with Mr. Hurd for a discussion on topics of common interest to the United Kingdom and the United Nations. He then met with Prime Minister John Major with whom he discussed various international questions, especially the forthcoming Security Council summit in New York.

Speaking briefly to the press after his meeting with the Prime Minister, the Secretary-General said the Council summit would be useful for the Secretariat and the "new mission" of the United Nations with regard to conflict resolution and preventive measures, as well as the promotion of human rights and democratic institutions. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali added that the summit would help him personally in his new job.

* * *

This year, for the first time since the Second World War, total production and income in the world have fallen, according to the latest update of the United Nations 1991 World Economic Survey.

In every other year, the survey says, the economic downturns in some countries were offset by economic growth in others. However, this year, economic decline is so widespread -- and so deep in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, now known as the Commonwealth of Independent States -- that it fully negates the positive impact of the more dynamic economies such as China, Japan, and several other Asian and Latin American countries.

Some of the world's economies have been severely disrupted by war and its aftermath or civil strife, as in Western Asia, Yugoslavia and a number of African countries. In addition, the survey says, the economic dislocations of countries in transition from centrally planned to market economies are causing large declines in output.

In its assessment of the world's major economies, the survey points at the unemployment rate of almost 7 per cent in the United States and that of Canada, which now exceeds 10 per cent. In the other major economy in outright recession, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, the unemployment rate rose above 8 per cent this summer, the survey says.
(E/1991/INF/11)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1058
15 January 1992

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Secretary-General, addressing Palestinian Rights Committee, stresses Israel's responsibility to protect civilians under the 1949 Geneva Convention.

- United Nations military liaison officers, drawn from three existing peace-keeping operations, begin deployment to Yugoslavia.

- World Food Programme begins emergency food aid to refugees in Yemen.

- Parties to anti-racism convention approve draft which would have General Assembly amend instrument to ensure funding for monitoring committee.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali addressed this morning the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, saying that a just and lasting settlement of the Palestine question must address the status of Jerusalem.

He stressed Israel's responsibility to protect the Palestinians under the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, adding that current negotiations between the parties were based on Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). By those resolutions the Council called on Israel to withdraw its forces from the territories occupied in the 1967 conflict.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the Security Council had expressed the consensus of the international community with regard to the legal obligations of Israel, as the occupying Power, most recently in resolution 726 (1992), which strongly condemned Israel's decision to resume deportations of Palestinian civilians. The fact that talks were going on between the parties did not detract from Israel's obligations to respect the Convention and abide by the Council's resolutions.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

Also this morning, the Committee elected Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal as Chairman, by acclamation. He announced that he would head the Committee's delegation to the United Nations Asian Regional Seminar on the Question of Palestine, to be held in Nicosia from 20 to 24 January.

* * *

It was announced today at Headquarters that the group of 50 United Nations military liaison officers to promote maintenance of the cease-fire in Yugoslavia had begun deployment to that country yesterday.

The Force, which would reach its full strength in a few days, has been drawn from three existing United Nations peace-keeping operations: the Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Jerusalem; the Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) and the Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM). The Force is composed of officers from 17 different nations.

Spokesman François Giuliani told correspondents at Headquarters that the mission had been erroneously characterized by the press as a preparatory mission for a United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia.

He emphasized that the mandate of the mission was to facilitate communication between the parties to the conflict. It was neither an observer mission nor a monitoring mission; furthermore, it did not prejudge the Secretary-General's recommendation on deployment of a peace-keeping force.

In other news today, the Security Council held consultations this afternoon on three separate items: dismantling of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA); request for membership to the United Nations by Kazakhstan; and Libya.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it will begin supplying emergency food aid to some 6,000 Ethiopian and Somali refugees who fled into Yemen during 1991 due to ongoing civil war in their countries. With no end to the fighting in sight, the number of refugees requiring emergency food aid is expected to swell.

According to the Programme, the refugees who are currently living in makeshift shelters in Aden, Taiz and Shabwa Province are desperately short of drinking water, building materials and, most importantly, food. The WPF expects the refugees to require emergency food rations for at least six months.

According to the WFP, Yemen has always been a net importer of food; now, however, the country is struggling to cope with a massive influx of its nationals from the Gulf region in the aftermath of the Gulf war and has declared itself unable to sustain the refugee burden any longer.

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States parties to the Internatinal Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination began today their fourteenth meeting at Headquarters, by adopting a draft text which would have the General Assembly decide to amend the Convention in order to ensure that its monitoring body -- the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination -- was entirely funded from the United Nations regular budget.

Also by the text, the Assembly would emphasize that the entry into force of the amendments could not be interpreted as relinquishing the obligation of the States parties to meet in full any arrears in payments of their assessed contributions.

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, with 130 States parties as of 15 January, is the most universally accepted of all the United Nations human rights instruments. It was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1965 and entered into force January 1969.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1059
16 January 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

◆ Secretary-General, attending signing ceremony of Peace Agreement on El Salvador, says United Nations involvement in peace efforts in that country has been "a ground-breaking experience"; travels to San Salvador to visit ONUSAL headquarters before returning to New York tomorrow.

◆ Security Council dissolves United Nations Observer Group (ONUCA) in Central America and transfers staff and equipment to Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

◆ Secretary-General welcomes payment in full by 12 Member States to United Nations 1992 regular budget and urges other Member States to do the same by 31 January; Organization still owed over $816 million in unpaid assessments for previous years.

◆ In second meeting today, Security Council refers Kazakhstan's application for United Nations membership to Committee on Admission of New Members for examination and report.

◆ Iran has made "important progress" in economic and social reconstruction after eight-year war with Iraq; however, barriers remain for recovery, according to report by former Secretary-General.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali attended today in Mexico City the signing ceremony of the Peace Agreements on El Salvador.

In a speech delivered at the ceremony, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the Agreements were "the crowning achievement of a long and arduous journey" and that the United Nations involvement had been "a ground-breaking experience".

Although the armed conflict in El Salvador had had international dimensions, it had been primarily an internal conflict, and thus not the kind of issue in which the United Nations would normally be involved, he said. However, he added, at the request of the Salvadorian authorities, and with the backing of the international community, the Organization, and the

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Secretary-General in particular, had been induced into playing an innovative role in the resolution of the conflict. The monitoring of human rights issue by ONUSAL was a good exemple of this new role.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also noted that the broadened responsibilities of ONUSAL, as recently approved by the Security Council, were an ambitious step by the international community to back the efforts of the Salvadorian people to break the cycle of poverty and violence and to stride toward development, democracy and peace.

Following the signing ceremony, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali was scheduled to travel to the capital city of San Salvador to visit ONUSAL headquarters in El Salvador before returning to New York tomorrow.

Earlier today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, for a discussion of a variety of regional issues, as well as the role of Mexico in the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding and the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto.

Later in the afternoon, the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with United States Secretary of State James A. Baker and with the Heads of State and Government of the four countries known as "friends of the Secretary-General" -- Colombia, Venezuela, Spain and Mexico -- also present at the signing ceremony.

Last night, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with the Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, with whom he discussed the role of Spain in ONUSAL and Spain's strong and sustained support for United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General also received the delegation of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

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The Security Council decided today to terminate the mandate of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), effective 17 January.

The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 730 (1992) by which it also approved the Secretary-General's report on the matter. According to the report, this action was necessary to enable the transfer of certain personnel and equipment from ONUCA to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) and to complete their deployment to El Salvador by 1 February.

ONUCA, which was the first large-scale peace-keeping operation of the United Nations in the Americas, was established in March 1989 at the request of the Governments of the five Central American Governments -- Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua -- to verify the Esquipulas II agreement for "firm and lasting peace in Central America".

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Over the course of its deployment, ONUCA helped in the process of transition following the Nicaraguan elections in February 1990, including the demobilization of the Nicaraguan resistance and the monitoring of the cease-fire in that country. The termination of the force coincides with the signing of the peace agreement today in Mexico City, putting an end to the 12-year conflict in El Salvador in which an estimated 70,000 people lost their lives.

* * *

The Secretary-General today welcomed the full payment, as of 15 January, by twelve Member States of their assessed contributions for the United Nations Working Capital Fund and the 1992 regular budget.

In a statement made through Spokesman François Giuliani, the Secretary-General emphasized that the United Nations is still owed over $816 million by Member States in unpaid assessments for the regular budget and for peace-keeping operations for last year and all previous years.

The Spokesman told correspondents that the assessments for the 1992 regular budget, totalling over $1 billion, were payable in full by 31 January, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations. As of yesterday, twelve Member States - Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden - had already fully paid their contributions. In addition, two new Member States - Estonia and Lithuania - had contributed $5,000 each to the 1992 regular budget, pending a determination by the General Assembly of their rates of assessments.

A list of the Member States who have complied with their financial obligations to pay their assessments in full by 31 January will be issued on 3 February.

* * *

In a second meeting this morning, the Security Council referred the application of the Republic of Kazakhstan, member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (former Soviet Union), for membership in the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of New Members for examination and report.

The Committee will meet on Tuesday, 21 January, to examine the application and prepare its report to the Council. The Council will meet again at a time to be announced to consider and take a decision on the Committee's report.

* * *

Iranian authorities have made "important progress" in reconstructing their country economically and socially after eight years of devastating war with Iraq. However, according to a report by former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, three main barriers are holding up the successful

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implementation of the reconstruction process of Iran: the shortage of foreign exchange, shortage of skilled professional and technical cadres, and transportation bottlenecks.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 24 December 1991, the Secretary-General said Iran's domestic reconstruction efforts since the end of the war three years ago had been "substantial and impressive". At the same time, however, the report noted that the immediate post-war strategy of rapid recovery of output appeared to be nearing its limits. There was a need to adopt a more thorough approach to the improvement of the physical infrastructure and productive apparatus. Crucial to such a change in strategy, it said, was an increase in foreign exchange resources.

The report concluded that the international community could make an important contribution to accelerating the progress in reconstructing Iran. The country's low indebtedness profile would make it particularly creditworthy for the project financing it seeks, and there appeared to be a wide range of viable projects both in the public and private sectors, the report said.

The Secretary-General's report was based on a final study by a team of experts, led by former Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim A. Farah, who visited Iran from 7 November to 1 December 1991.
(S/23322)

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1060
17 January 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- Secretary-General welcomes "first day of peace" in El Salvador.

- Ninth inspection team of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) verifies Iraqi stockpile of centrifuge parts and materials used to produce enriched uranium.

- Russian Federation to continue Soviet Union's membership, rights and obligations in IAEA.

- International Committee of Red Cross visits detainees in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for first time in 12 years.

- Canada contributes $1 million to United Nations humanitarian assistance to Croatia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia.

- Measures taken by nine countries to ensure equal rights for women among issues to be reviewed at session of Committee on Discrimination against Women, to be held at Headquarters from 20 to 31 January.

- United Nations seminar on Palestinian question to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 21 to 24 January.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived last night in San Salvador, accompanied by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, his Personal Representative for Central America, Alvaro de Soto, and Iqbal Riza, Special Delegate of the Secretary-General and Chief of Mission of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

Speaking to the press upon arrival, the Secretary-General said that with the culmination of the negotiating process, the complex task of monitoring compliance with the agreements fell upon ONUSAL, which had already been observing the situation of human rights in El Salvador for a few months. However, he said, the principal responsibility lay with the two parties, the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN).

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he would tell President Cristiani of El Salvador that the United Nations would spare no effort to contribute to consolidate peace in his country and in Central America as a whole.

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For information media—not an official record

Before leaving El Salvador, the Secretary-General met with President Cristiani and visited the ONUSAL headquarters, where he received a briefing on the Mission's mandate and its operation modalities.

* * *

The ninth inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has returned from a visit to Iraq, during which it verified Iraqi stockpile of centrifuge parts and other materials used for the construction of weapons of mass destruction.

The IAEA has been carrying out inspections of Iraqi weapons sites with the cooperation and assistance of the Special Commission on the Destruction of Iraqi Weapons, a United Nations body set up by the Security Council in April 1991.

The main objective of the visit, which took place from 12 to 15 January, was to verify recent information received from Germany and other Member States concerning Iraqi procurement of large quantities of raw materials and components required for the manufacture of centrifuges to produce enriched uranium.

According to the IAEA, the Iraqis acknowledged the procurement of these materials and said they had been destroyed or "rendered harmless" before the Agency's inspections began last year.

The Agency said further that the results of this inspection had removed a number of inconsistencies remaining from previous inspections. In the opinion of the experts who took part in the inspection, the Iraqis' centrifuge enrichment programme had not progressed to a point where they could have started a sizeable production of centrifuges, although, given time, they would have been successful in doing so.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, has addressed a letter to the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, acknowledging a note from the Russian Federation that it will be continuing the Soviet Union's membership, rights and obligations in the IAEA.

Mr Blix referred in his letter to a voluntary offer made by the Soviet Union in 1985 enabling the Agency to verify the exclusively peaceful use of a large number of nuclear installations. He said such inspections would be of potential use in the future.

The Director-General also referred to the non-payment by the Soviet Union of its assessed contribution to the Agency for 1991 and said that this had forced the IAEA to curtail its planned programme - including safeguards inspections - by 13 per cent. He acknowledged the difficult situation facing

the Russian Federation, but said he trusted that high priority would be given to payment of its contributions, so that the Agency could continue to pursue its important activities.

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For the first time since the start of the Cambodian conflict, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been able to visit, in accordance with its customary working procedures, persons detained in the capital city of Phnom Penh. The Committee has been trying for over 12 years to gain access to persons detained in connection with the conflict.

In a press release issued at Headquarters, the Red Cross said that on 14 January, ICRC delegates saw 290 prisoners all eligible for release under the agreement signed in Paris on 23 October last year. The day after the visit, the detainees were released under ICRC auspices, in the presence of Prince Sihanouk, Chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council.

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Canada has announced a contribution of $1 million for humanitarian assistance to Croatia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia, in response to a joint-fund United Nations appeal for a relief programme to aid some 600,000 displaced persons in the region.

Last December, the Secretary-General's report on Yugoslavia to the Security Council recommended a six-month assistance programme estimated at some $24.3 million, to be coordinated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Making the announcement yesterday, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, said the contribution underlined Canada's support for the work of the United Nations and its determination to alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians in the war-torn region. The funds would be distributed between three United Nations Agencies, the UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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The Committee on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, meeting at Headquarters for its eleventh session from 20 to 31 January, will hear reports from nine countries - Barbados, Ghana, Honduras, China, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Spain, Sri Lanka and Venezuela - on measures they have taken to ensure that women in their countries participate equally in political, economic, social and cultural life.

The 23-member expert Committee monitors implementation of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the single most authoritative legal document produced during the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985). As of 15 January, 111 States had ratified the Convention.

(more)

At this session the Committee will also examine articles of the Convention relating to violence against women, sexual harassment and exploitation of women, including trafficking and prostitution.

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A just settlement of the Palestinian question and the safety and protection of the Palestinians under occupation will be among the subjects discussed at the twenty-ninth United Nations Seminar and non-governmental organization Symposium on the Question of Palestine, to be held in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 20 to 24 January.

Organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the meeting will be part of the Committee's continuing efforts to promote a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian question, thus contributing to the peace process by encouraging a balanced and constructive discussion of the issues by the parties concerned, at the governmental and non-governmental levels.

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